



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

5720

Ser DNS-36JP/14U106190

4 Sep 14

Mr. Ray Stone

Dear Mr. Stone:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS;
FOIA CASE NUMBERS 2013F041262 2013F041892 2013F041893
FOIA TRACKING NUMBERS DON-NAVY-2013-000260,
DON-NAVY-2013-000549, DON-NAVY-2013-001011

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests dated May 5, 2013 and September 6, 2013. Your requests were received in our office on May 6, 2013 and September 10, 2013, respectively.

Please be advised that, as of February 1, 2014, DON joined FOIAonline as a participating agency. As a result of this transition, the tracking numbers of your FOIA request has been changed to DON-NAVY-2013-000260, DON-NAVY-2013-000549, and DON-NAVY-2013-001011.

With regard to DON-NAVY-2013-000260 (previously 2013F041262), for "photos and video of stern section of wreck of USS SCORPION (SSN 589)," the attached two compact discs contain all records responsive to your request. The first disc, labeled "Video Footage," contains unclassified video footage of the SCORPION and THRESHER. To run the video, begin by opening the folder named "VIDEO_TS" and then open the file named "VTS_01_1" using Windows Media Player as the preferred viewing medium. Video footage of the SCORPION shaft and screw can be seen at minutes 23:15 - 25:15 in the video. The second disc contains photos of the screw, shaft, and stern. These records are released in their entirety, and will be publicly posted through FOIA Online and the DON FOIA website.

With regard to DON-NAVY-2013-000549 (previously 2013F041892), for "the work package on USS Scorpion (SSN 589) from the drydock period of around February to May 1967 in Norfolk Naval Shipyard," N97, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Naval Sea Systems Command conducted a thorough search and determined that all records responsive to this request were previously provided to you in letters dated

June 13, 2013 and August 16, 2013. The records previously released will be publicly posted through FOIA Online and the DON FOIA website.

With regard to DON-NAVY-2013-001101 (previously 2013F041893), for "unclassified pictures and video contained in the 'database' for which is the repository of all information on loss of USS SCORPRION (SSN 589)," please be advised that this request represents a massive amount of data, much of which is irrelevant to the cause of the loss of USS SCORPION. N97 has advised that approximately 15,000 documents (almost 50,000 pages) are scanned and electronically redacted in the cited database. Unfortunately, the database does not support "document surfing" and has limited search functionality. It takes approximately 5 to 90 minutes, depending on the file size, for a single document to open for viewing. Additionally, as this database contains all photos and video taken during the various dives and investigations into the loss of USS SCORPION, a significant portion of the records responsive to your request are photographs and video that do not contain any image of USS SCORPION at all, or at a distance unusable for any insight into the loss of USS SCORPION. We anticipate that processing of your request as written will require hundreds of man-hours of search and review. Accounting for the other duties and obligations of N97, we estimate that processing of this request would require several years, and produce an abundance of records that we anticipate are of no interest to you.

If you wish to pursue this request, please contact this office so that we may discuss the time frame for the processing of your request and whether you wish to narrow the scope of your request. Due to the scale and scope of this request, we are suspending the processing of your request until you contact us regarding the time frame and scope. If we do not receive a response within 20 days of the date of this letter (i.e., by **October 2, 2014**), we will interpret your non-response as an intent to withdraw your request, and the request will be closed accordingly.

Because no additional records responsive to your request (DON-NAVY-2013-000549) were identified, you are advised of your right to appeal the adequacy of the search by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General
1322 Patterson Ave, SE, Ste 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within sixty calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and

the face of the letter. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this decision to be in error.

Questions regarding the action this office has taken during the initial processing of your request may be directed to our FOIA service center at (202) 685-0412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Patterson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robin Patterson
Head, DON FOIA/PA Program Office